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Exhaustive Report BY OFFICER TRACY On City Cemeteries

Honolulu, Hawaii, Sept. 30, 1902.
Dr. H. C. Sloggett, President Board of Health.

Sir:—At your request I have investigated the different cemeteries in the city during the past month and beg leave to report as follows:

There are five cemeteries inside the mile limit, namely: Kawaiahae, Catholic, Pauoa Church, Hook Chu Co., and Yee King Tong.

Outside the mile limit, but inside the city limits are: Makiki, Nuuanu, Kalaepohaku. Also there are the Chinese cemetery in Manoa valley, the Manoa church cemetery, the Diamond Head cemetery and the Waikiki church cemetery, also the Kahi church cemetery, the Kahi-waena (Catholic) cemetery, Puaa and Kaunakapili.

Kawaiahae cemetery comprises most of the block bounded by King street, Punchbowl street, Queen street and Mission and Kawaiahae lanes. It has been in use the longest of any of the cemeteries and more burials have been made there than in any other, though there are no records to prove the statement, only the fact that there is very little room left. It is impossible to count the graves owing to their having been levelled and all marks obliterated. There are but 574 graves in sight and according to the evidence of the caretaker there are at least five graves obliterated where one is visible. No records have been kept except for the last two years and the cemetery was a general burying ground for years and hence the location of graves is lost except possibly where a living person remembers a grave location. This was shown last week when on digging a grave two coffins were exposed.

The soil is of good earth down for about four feet where a strata of black sand is encountered, below which is coral. The ground is practically level and as far as ascertainable there is no drainage to any source of water or supply.

The cemetery is surrounded on all sides by tenement houses and is in a congested portion of the city and should be closed for that reason alone.

The Catholic cemetery, on the makai side of King street, just Ewa of Mrs. Ward's property, "The Old Plantation," at the foot of Kapiolani street, is about 500 feet long on King street by 400 feet deep and comprises two portions, the old and the new. The original cemetery is the Ewa half of the present cemetery and was opened about 1851. In the early seventies the Waikiki portion was purchased and presented to the church.

The soil of the front half of the cemetery is good for about four feet but beneath this is a strata of black sand four feet deep. The rear quarter of the grounds is decidedly unfit for use as the water level is struck at a depth of three and one half feet and hence burials have been made at that depth which is two and a half feet short of the required depth. The water drains into the open ponds behind in which the natives still fish to a limited extent. Below these ponds are fifteen or twenty houses occupied by laborers and their families; on the Ewa side are quite a few more and across the street from the cemetery are residences.

The Ewa half of the cemetery is badly crowded and it is doubtful if a grave could be dug and not find a coffin. The new portion is also pretty well filled and very little space is left.

The Mission has practically ceased burying in this place, there being but two or three a month as against five times that number previously, most of the bodies now being taken to Pearl City.

The same difficulty in counting graves is experienced as at Kawaiahae for the people do not put permanent marks on the graves and in a few years the wood rots away and no sign is left. I counted 416 graves in the old portion and 355 in the new. Total, 771.

In quite a few cases the bodies are buried in the same grave on top of one another owing to the wishes of the deceased. This practice naturally necessitates some being buried at a less depth than six feet. A case in point is where a burial of a child was made at a depth of not over four feet in the same grave as one of its ancestors, about two weeks ago.

Pauoa church cemetery is very small, being about 125 feet square. It is situated on the Pauoa road about 800 feet from the junction of Pauoa and

Punchbowl roads. It is about 25 feet from Pauoa stream. The soil is good and firm for about ten feet. Marks on graves are few and only 74 graves can be counted though three times that number are probably buried there as the cemetery is in the churchyard and is very old.

The Hook Chu Co. cemetery adjoins the Pauoa church on the mauka side and is about twice the size. The same things as regard soil and location and drainage can be said as of Pauoa church cemetery. It is not so crowded and the graves are better marked. I counted 94.

Both these cemeteries adjoin the school premises and the property around is well settled. They should both be closed.

Makiki cemetery is located on the north corner of Pensacola street and Wilder avenue and is about 600 feet square. It was opened in 1877 by the government and originally extended up the hill about 400 feet, later 200 feet were added as the general burying ground became overcrowded. The lower half towards Pensacola street was divided into lots and sold as private plots and this portion is now near full as the lots are large and do not average over three burials to a plot, except the Japanese lot which is an badly overcrowded as to necessitate burying in the passageways. The upper half or general burying ground is full and every space is used except a very small plot of the new portion at the back. The Japanese plot known as No. 2 is badly overcrowded and all the passageways are filled so that one has to walk over graves to go from one place to the other.

The cemetery slopes towards Pensacola street.

The soil is about four feet deep covering the black sand.

The neighborhood is well settled on the makai and Waikiki sides of the cemetery. On the Ewa side is Punchbowl, and on the mauka side are but two houses.

In the lower or plotted portion are about 526 burials, 133 of which are in one lot. In the upper portion of the cemetery are 2056 burials, 606 of which are in one lot. Total 2582. (This is a conservative estimate).

Nuuanu (or Oahu) cemetery is located just above Judd street on Nuuanu avenue. Nuuanu avenue divides the cemetery. The eastern half is about 400 feet square, the western is at least twice as large. The cemetery has been used as a burying ground for years.

The soil is good and firm and dry for at least six feet down. There is no drainage to any stream or source of water supply.

The cemetery has been divided into lots and sold in this manner and consequently the ground is not nearly all used. I counted 368 in the eastern portion and 444 in the other. Total, 1212.

The graves in the majority of cases are marked and easily recognized. The cemetery is not more than half full, if it is that.

As for residences, they surround the place but are few in number and all have large grounds surrounding them.

Yee King Tong Association cemetery is situated on the north slope of Punchbowl between the Punchbowl drive and Pauoa stream. It is reached by a lane leading off Punchbowl street near the Pauoa bridge. It has been in use for years but the whole upper portion contains but fifteen or twenty graves. The soil is good and firm for at least six feet down with a rock bottom hence there is small likelihood of seepage to the stream which is at least 75 feet from the nearest interment.

There are no residences on either side or above but below is the Portuguese settlement about 800 feet away.

The cemetery is not full and owing to the custom of removing the bones and sending them to China there is no danger of the place filling up for years to come.

The Manoa cemetery (Chinese) is situated at the end of the lower Manoa road on the east side of Manoa valley. The soil is good and clear an while the cemetery is on a hillside and sloping towards the stream yet all interments are at a sufficient distance from the water that no seepage could not reach it. The cemetery is large and is only about one-quarter full. There is no settlement anywhere close to the place and only two or three houses in the neighborhood.

A water ditch runs through the land and all burials should be forbidden within at least 50 feet of the same.

A thrifty Chinaman is cultivating a part of the cemetery and raising pine-apples between the graves.

The Moiliili and Waikiki cemeteries in the church lots I did not investigate.

Kalaepohaku cemetery is situated above the Insane Asylum. The place has been used for years but there is an abundance of unused ground. The soil is rather rocky but is covered with plenty of good earth. There are no people living anywhere near the cemetery.

The only objection to the cemetery is that at the base of the hill are several springs which may be polluted by seepage from the cemetery.

Puaa cemetery at Palama above Kamehameha schools on the Houghtaling road is an old native burying ground and the only way to locate graves in the old portion is to find sunken spots. The cemetery is badly crowded in the old portion through which the School street extension will go. The new portion has been fenced off and divided up into lots and evidently only eighty or ninety interments have been made in it. It is about 200 feet square. The soil is good red dirt for about four feet and covers a strata of black sand. The cemetery is nearly flat and slopes slightly toward a dry ditch or gully.

There are no residences on either side or mauka of it and only a few below it so that it is practically isolated.

Kaunakapili Church Cemetery is situated in the church lot directly behind the new fire station, at Palama, on the lane just Ewa of the Reformatory school.

The lot is only about 25 feet by 125 feet in size and according to the caretaker is pretty well full, though almost all graves are levelled.

The formation is of coral rock with a covering of two feet of loose earth. It is about ten feet above water level and within three hundred feet of a stream.

The locality is thickly populated on three sides and the Reformatory School is on the other.

Kalihi-waena Catholic Cemetery is located on the Kamehameha IV. road in the church premises. It is about 225 feet by 125 feet in size and lies between the church and the street. The soil is red dirt with small rock down for ten or twelve feet at least.

There is no drainage toward any stream or pond.

The locality is fairly well settled. The cemetery is about half-used.

Kahonoholemano Cemetery is in the Protestant Church lot on the Kamehameha IV. road above the Catholic Church about 300 feet. There have been only about twenty burials in this place, and there are room for at least two hundred more.

Soil and drainage are the same as at the Catholic cemetery.

Maemae church cemetery is located on Wyllie street. I did not investigate it closely though the soil and general location are good.

Following are the number of interments in each cemetery from October 1, 1901 to October 1, 1902: Makiki, 181; Catholic, King street, 45; Manoa (Chinese), 22; Puaa, (Palama), 29; Waikiki church, 7; Moiliili church, 5; Kawaiahae, 89; Catholic (Kalihi-waena), 27; Yee King Tong (Pauoa), 94; Kahonoholemano, 19; Maemae church, 17; Nuuanu or Oahu, 63; Kalaepohaku, 79; Pauoa church, 34; Kaunakapili, 5; Manoa church, 8. Respectfully,

C. H. TRACY,
City Sanitary Officer.

YOU CAN'T VOTE UNLESS YOU REGISTER.

ANGRY AT ADVERTISEMENTS.

New York, Sept. 24.—Miss Egbert Titus, president of the Girls' Club and member of the Signal Union, aroused a storm of indignation today at the nineteenth annual convention of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union of King's county. She declared that she was mad at the sight on many billboards of an immense colored lithograph representing David B. Hill, Senator Depew, Admiral Schley, Mayor Low and District Attorney Jerome smiling at their upheld glasses of a certain brand of whiskey.

"That advertisement," she said, "has so stirred my soul that I feel it my duty to bring the matter to the attention of this convention."

The corresponding secretary was ordered to write to the five men and protest against their allowing their portraits to form part of such an advertisement.

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Harrison Mutual Burial Association.
Gentlemen:—Your association not only assures every member of a proper and decent burial at a very small cost, but relieves others of a responsibility they are not always prepared to meet. Yours respectfully, FATHER H. VALENTIN.

For particulars apply at the office of the Secretary, 393 BERETANIA ST., or to any member of the Association.

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